

**From:** Mark Segall  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/7/01 9:08am  
**Subject:** Antitrust Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to let my opinion be known on the Microsoft case. Let me first say that Microsoft has been great for the economy and earned the right to be in such control of the OS market. When they tried to sell their ideas to IBM in the late 80's of home computing, IBM laughed in their face. SUN and Apple also had large egos and refused to allow other hardware makers to use their OS's until it was too late.

The problem is what they did with that power. My first example is Internet Explorer. I'm like the next Joe and love the fact that Internet browsers are now free. However, the way it came about was downright dirty. They included it for free with their OS that everyone was using. Netscape was forced to make their browser free as well. Netscape lost their main source of income and would eventually die out in the R&D battle. Second, Word Perfect used to be the word processing software of choice. Microsoft had told the large computer manufacturing companies that if they bundled any Office software other than Microsoft with their machines they could not bundle Windows. Of course, the manufacturers could not do anything but comply. This eventually caused Corel's product to fall by the wayside.

Now with the settlement, Microsoft is starting again. Packaged with Windows is MSN Messenger. They have been trying to take over this market for a long time starting with a failed acquisition of ICQ. So again, they will use their OS to throw it at people. Let's face it; the majority of the population is not computer savvy. Microsoft is very aware of this and uses their lack of knowledge to the companies advantage.

I do think something should be done about the monopoly. A breakup would be extreme and affect the economy. However, a little slap on the wrist and fines are not enough. Microsoft is a multi-billion dollar company and can afford any fines that are imposed on them. I am sick of buying software because it is what Microsoft has forced upon everyone and start buying it again because it is the better software. For example, Corel's last version of Word Perfect included dictating software. The majority of the population will not know anything about it until Microsoft bundles it with their software.

Thank you,  
Mark Segall

---

Do You Yahoo!?  
Send your FREE holiday greetings online!  
<http://greetings.yahoo.com>

